

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An article of footwear comprising a shell (10) ~~and preferably also a leg piece (20), and featuring, at least in selected portions thereof other than the sole (15),~~ of a composite structure formed of two layers (30, 40; 30A, 40A) that are made of preferably synthetic a first layer and a second layer laid over and inseparably coupled with said first layer at respective interfacing surfaces, said first and second layers being made of materials having different mechanical properties ~~and are provided with mutually interfacing layers (34; 34a, 42; 42A), characterized in that at least , the interfacing surface (34; 34A) of the layer (30) made of~~ materials with higher mechanical properties is being provided with protruding elements (36) that remain inseparably adhering to the other interfacing surface (42; 42A) of the other layer, which covers the protruding elements so as to entirely fill their interspace, at least a part of said protruding elements being ribs for stiffening selected locations of lateral and upper portions of the footwear other than the sole of the footwear, wherein said protruding elements act to increase the moment of inertia of said footwear with respect to a neutral axis.

2. (Currently Amended) An article of footwear according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the layer (40) made of materials with lower mechanical properties is softer and is the one coming directly or indirectly in contact with the foot of the wearer.

3. (Currently Amended) An article of footwear according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said protruding elements (36) ~~consists~~ consist of a plurality of ribs that are made

integral with the layer (30), of which they are a ~~part of~~, part, and are projecting from the interface surface (34) of the same layer.

4. (Currently Amended) An article of footwear according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said ribs (36) intersect each other so as to form a ~~sort of~~ truss-like pattern comprising a plurality of knots (38) over a plate.

5. (Currently Amended) An article of footwear according to any of the preceding claims, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said some of said protruding elements are so arranged to create inscriptions, images, logotypes or the like (37, 38) on the interface surface of at least one of said layers (30A, 40A), and ~~that is made of a clear material~~ at least the layer (40A) arranged on the outward facing side of the footwear is made of a clear material.

6. (Currently Amended) An article of footwear according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least the protruding elements (36; 37, 38) forming said inscriptions, images, logotypes or the like (37, 38) are provided with a luminescent finishing effect and/or in a different ~~colour~~ color with respect to the layer (40A) arranged on the outward facing side of the footwear, which is made of a clear material.

7. (Currently Amended) An article of footwear according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the surfaces of said layers (30, 40) other than the interface surfaces thereof,

including outermost and innermost surfaces of the shell, are uniform ~~, i.e. and~~ substantially smooth.

8. (New) An article of footwear according to claim 1, further comprising a leg piece mounted to said shell.

9. (New) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein said material with higher mechanical properties is high grade thermoplastic or thermosetting synthetic material.

10. (New) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein the material of the other layer is lower grade thermoplastic or thermosetting synthetic material.

11. (New) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein the protruding ribs do not increase a thickness of the shell.